

The claims have been amended as follows:

g2 17. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cells expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising a cellular growth factor.

18. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with a cellular growth factor.

19. (Twice Amended) A hematopoietic cell expansion medium, comprising a cell growth medium and a Flt3-ligand polypeptide in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion, wherein the Flt3-ligand polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- g3
- (a) polypeptides comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 that bind flt3;
 - (b) polypeptides comprising a fragment of amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 (a), wherein the fragment binds flt3;
 - (c) polypeptides comprising a polypeptide that binds flt3 that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6; and
 - (d) polypeptides comprising a fragment of a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 28-160, wherein the fragment binds flt3.

20. (Twice Amended) An *in vitro* method for expanding hematopoietic cells, the method comprising contacting the cells with a Flt3-ligand polypeptide in an amount sufficient to cause hematopoietic cell expansion, wherein the Flt3-ligand polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polypeptides comprising amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6 that bind flt3;
- (b) polypeptides comprising a fragment of acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the fragment binds flt3;
- (c) polypeptides comprising a polypeptide that binds flt3 that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:6; and
- (d) polypeptides comprising a fragment of a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 28-160, wherein the fragment binds flt3.

21. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising G-CSF.

22. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising GM-CSF.

23. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising SF.

24. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising EPO.

25. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising a GM-CSF/IL-3 fusion protein.

26. (Twice Amended) The hematopoietic cell expansion medium of claim 19, further comprising IL-6.

Please cancel claims 29 and 30.

Applicants wish to add the following new claims:

31. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with G-CSF.

32. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with GM-CSF.

33. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with SF.

34. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with EPO.

35. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with a GM-CSF/IL-3 fusion protein.

36. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising contacting the cells with IL-6.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended as per the Examiner's Interview of November 7, 2002. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled because the subject matter of those claims has been